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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

OUR FORESTS ARE RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING

A Scenic-pictorial booth exhibit showing the progress of forest destruction in the United States, the causes, the results, and some of the remedies.

Specifications

Floor Space - - - - - 13' wide by 10'
Wall Space - - - - - None. (deep.
Shipping Weight - - - - - 1175 lbs.
Electrical Requirements - 500 watts for 1
motor and 1 projector.

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How It Looks

The winter sun is setting behind a forest - part of which has been burned and part of which has been cut clean, evidently wastefully and without regard for future wood crops. Standing out alone in the foreground is a large stump on which is resting the recently felled tree of which it had been a part, exposing the cross section to the spectator, the trunk and crown extending far into the background. A series of legends and diagrams which briefly tell the story of the exhibit is thrown on the surface of this cross section (which serves as a screen) by an automatic projector housed in the trunk of the tree. The wings of the booth bring the forest into the foreground around the newly cut tree, the motif gradually becoming conventionalized. Between the two foremost trees of each wing is a set of colored enlargements; the group on the left demonstrating the premise "Forests Help Develop Communities;" the group on the right presenting ways of carrying out the pertinent admonition "Do not Waste Wood."

What It Tells

"We cut out forests four times as fast as they grow." This fact which we might surmise from the exhibit as a whole, we read on the cross-section of the felled tree. In the next four flashes is seen the progress of one tree growing while four others are being cut. Although the ratio between growth and harvest is somewhat disheartening, there is a note of encouragement in the assurance that new crops will grow if we give the trees a chance to start and if we protect them from fire until they are mature. Nature will replace the trees we require to supply our economic needs if we properly care for the forest while harvesting our periodic crops.

Important as is the production of trees within our remaining forests, of most serious concern is the disappearance, through wasteful logging and the ravages of fire, of entire forests with their varied benefits in addition to

wood-production. Three maps showing the forest area of the United States in 1620, 1850 and 1920 in turn speak eloquently. They need no comment except the reiteration that this whole problem has been created by complacent short-sightedness and can be solved only by a radical change in public attitude.

The spectator's natural inquiry has been anticipated in the next legend, "What can I do?" and is answered by the following suggestions: "Make your idle forest land work," "Treat your timber as a crop," "Prevent the burning of your woods," "Get help from your State Forester." The pictures on the right wing of the booth further illustrate these suggestions.

The pictures on the left show the far-reaching benefits of forests, how they "are an aid to industries," how they "encourage transportation improvement," "contribute to the development of communities and the welfare of the nation," "provide recreation"; and how "waste lands pay no wages."

Where to Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or from any representative of the Forest Service.

Farmers' Bulletin 1417 - Idle Land and Costly Timber
Dept. Circular 112 - Timber Depletion and the
Answer

Yearbook Separate 835 - Wood for the Nation

Yearbook Separate 886 - Timber: Mine or Crop?

Report of Senate Committee on Reforestation, 67th
Congress Jan. 10, 1924

